Reports Against cutting of Trees

2756. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state;

(a) the number of reports received against the cutting of trees in different Government forests during the last three years State-wise;

(b) the number of Persons arrested for cutting trees in Government forests dur ing the above period, State-wise;

(c) the number of persons convicted on account of cutting trees, State-wise during the same period; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to save trees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRl Z. R. ANSARI); (a) to (c) Details will be collected and placed on the table of the house.

(d) The following guidelines have been issued to the State Governments] UTs to save the trees:

(i) Checking illicit felling of trees and removal of forest produce.

(ii) Enforcement of the provisions of the Indian Forest Act.

(iii) Providing deterrent punishment to the offenders.

(iv) Programme for Wasteland De-velopment for fodder.

(v) Strengthening of Forest Protection Forces.

(vi) Control on shifting cultivation.

(vii) Stricter control on functioning of saw and Veneer mills.

(viii) Increase in protected areas like Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks.

(ix) Closure of vulnerable forest areas to grazing.

(x) Promotion of use of alternative fuel to reduce pressure on forests on account of firewood extraction.

(xi) Substitution Of wood in industries, railways and other uses.

(xii) Elimination of contractors.

(xiii) Guidelines for preparation of working plans and felling in the forests issued to State|UTs for conservation of fragile areas in particular.

(xiv) Restriction on felling trees above an altitude of 1000 meters.

In addition, the Central Government has introduced a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of infrastructure for protection of forests from biotic interference, under which funds are provided to the State Governments on a shared basis, to prevent illegal exploitation of forests.

Assessment of river water pollution

2757. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some new methods have been developed by experts to assess river water pollution; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRl Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The methods include remote sensing, computerised pollution monitoring systems and rapid estimation of Bio-Chemical Oxygen Demand.

Import and export trade

2758. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

SHRl BHAGATRAM MANHA

Will the Minister of COMMERCE pleased to state:

(a) what is the value of impo' export trade with each country du last three years;